

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3746
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Indo-Pak Secretary-level Talks
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether India and Pakistan recently held Secretary-Level discussions in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any initiatives have been taken to find an amicable solution for all the outstanding disputes between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

- (a) No. There has been no Secretary level talks in New Delhi this year.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) to (e) Government's consistent policy has been that it desires good-neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally through peaceful means in accordance with Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration. However, this necessarily requires an environment free from terror, hostility and violence.

During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in December 2015, it was decided to have a meeting at the level of the Foreign Secretaries to work out modalities of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. However, in wake of terrorist attack on Pathankot airbase in January 2016 and continued support to cross border terrorism and cease fire violations by Pakistan, the meeting to discuss modalities of the Dialogue has not been held so far.